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ISSUE: Civil Agency Representation on the Steering Group

The argument has been made that the Security Group should include a representative from outside the national security community to give proper weight to the interests of the civil agencies. Two possibilities have been discussed, Secretary of State and Secretary of Commerce (NTIA).

The former option has a historical basis in that the Secretary of State was paired with the Secretary of Defense as a special committee of the NSC to oversee the old U.S. Board. However, State is in fact a member of the national security establishment and is not accepted as a bona fide "civil agency" by many members of that community.

The latter option has a basis in E.O. 12046 which designates the Secretary of Commerce as the President's "principal advisor on telecommunications policies pertaining to the Nation's economic and technological advancement and to the regulation of the telecommunications industry." The Order also states that he "shall provide for the coordination of telecommunications activities of the Executive Branch, and shall assist in formulation of policies and standards...including...interoperability, privacy, security, spectrum use, and emergency readinesss." Opposition to this argument focuses on the fact that E.O. 12046, although still in effect, (crafted during the Carter administration) has been modified to some degree by initiatives undertaken during

the present administration--specifically, NSDD-47, NSTAC, and NSDD-97. Additionally, including Commerce on the Steering Group may give the appearance of undercutting the intention to return to a single executive agent.

Because of the difficulty of identifying a truly "representative" civil agency representative, the draft NSDD provides no proposed solution. An implicit third alternative, therefore, is to deny the beginning argument and assume that the Steering Group, as formulated can adequately represent the interests of the civil agency community.